

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

14. (New) A surfactant/solvent system for liquid organic formulations, comprising:

- b1) one or more aromatic-based surfactants; and
- b2) one or more completely esterified organic phosphates and/or phosphonates as solvent, selected from the group consisting of
  - b2.1) esters of phosphoric acid with alcohols selected from the group consisting of
    - monohydric alkanols having 5 to 22 carbon atoms,
    - diols or polyols,
    - aryl, alkylaryl, poly(alkyl)aryl or poly(arylalkyl)aryl alcohols,
    - alkoxylated alcohols obtained by reacting the abovementioned alcohols with alkylene oxides, or
    - alkoxylated alcohols obtained by reacting monohydric alkanols with 1 to 4 carbon atoms and alkylene oxides,
  - b2.2) phosphonates based on alkyl-, aryl-, alkylaryl-, poly(alkyl)aryl- or poly(arylalkyl)arylphosphonic acids diesterified with alcohols and/or alkoxylated alcohols selected from the group consisting of
    - monohydric alkanols having 1 to 22 carbon atoms,
    - diols or polyols,
    - aryl, alkylaryl, poly(alkyl)aryl and poly(arylalkyl)aryl alcohols or
    - alkoxylated alcohols obtained by reacting the abovementioned alcohols with alkylene oxides,

wherein the 3 alcohol components of the phosphoric ester (b2.1) or the two alcohol components of the phosphonate (b2.2) can be identical or different and are chosen such that the ester is a polar solvent which is water-insoluble or soluble in water to 5 g/l at 20°C and, in aqueous solution, does not form micellar aggregates.

15. (New) The surfactant/solvent system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said one or more aromatic-based surfactants are selected from the group consisting of:

- b1.1) phenols, phenyl (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl ethers or (poly)alkoxylated phenols,
- b1.2) (poly)alkylphenols or (poly)alkylphenol alkoxylates,
- b1.3) polyarylphenols or polyarylphenol alkoxylates,
- b1.4) compounds which formally represent the reaction products of the molecules described under b1.1) to b1.3) with sulfuric acid or phosphoric acid, and their salts neutralized with suitable bases,
- b1.5) (poly)alkyl- and (poly)arylbenzenesulfonates which are acidic and have been neutralized with suitable bases.

16. (New) The surfactant/solvent system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said one or more aromatic-based surfactants are selected from the group consisting of:

- phenol reacted with 4 to 10 mol of ethylene oxide,
- triisobutylphenol reacted with 4 to 50 mol of ethylene oxide,
- nonylphenol reacted with 4 to 50 mol of ethylene oxide,
- tristyrylphenol reacted with 4 to 150 mol of ethylene oxide, and

- acidic (linear) dodecylbenzenesulfonate.

17. (New) The surfactant/solvent system as claimed in claim 14, further comprising one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of:

- orthophosphoric acid triesterified with alkoxylated short-chain alcohols having 1 to 22 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical and 1 to 30 alkyleneoxy units in the polyalkyleneoxy moiety,
- orthophosphoric acid triesterified with alkyl alcohols having 5 to 22 carbon atoms,
- orthophosphoric acid partially esterified with optionally alkoxylated alcohols having 1 to 22 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical or optionally alkoxylated phenol derivatives, in each case having 0 to 30 alkyleneoxy units in the polyalkyleneoxy moiety, the remaining OH valences of the orthophosphoric acid having been subsequently alkoxylated, and
- esters of n-octylphosphonic acid which have been formally reacted twice with alcohols.

18. (New) The surfactant/solvent system as claimed in claim 14, comprising tri(butoxyethyl) phosphate as solvent component (b2).

19. (New) The surfactant/solvent system as claimed in claim 15, comprising tri(butoxyethyl) phosphate as solvent component (b2).

20. (New) The surfactant/solvent system as claimed in claim 15, comprising tri(butoxyethyl) phosphate as solvent component (b2).
21. (New) A liquid formulation, comprising:
  - (a) one or more water-insoluble active ingredients;
  - (b) the surfactant/solvent system as defined in claim 14, wherein component mixture (b) comprises b1) and b2);
  - (c) optionally further organic solvents;
  - (d) optionally further surfactants and/or polymers; and
  - (e) optionally water.
22. (New) The liquid formulation as claimed in claim 21, comprising
  - (a) 1 to 50% by weight of pesticide active ingredients;
  - (b) 5 to 80% by weight of the component mixture (b);
  - (c) 0 to 40% by weight of further organic solvents;
  - (d) 0 to 30% by weight of further surfactants;
  - (e) 0 to 20% by weight of customary formulation auxiliaries; and
  - (f) 0 to 96% by weight of water.
23. (New) The liquid formulation as claimed in claim 21, comprising tri(butoxyethyl) phosphate as solvent component (b2).

24. (New) The liquid formulation as claimed in claim 22, comprising tri(butoxyethyl) phosphate as solvent component (b2).
25. (New) The liquid formulation as claimed in claim 21, further comprising one or more active ingredients selected from the group consisting of the herbicides desmedipham, phenmedipham and ethofumesate.
26. (New) The liquid formulation as claimed in claim 22, further comprising one or more active ingredients selected from the group consisting of the herbicides desmedipham, phenmedipham and ethofumesate.
27. (New) The liquid formulation as claimed in claim 23, further comprising one or more active ingredients selected from the group consisting of the herbicides desmedipham, phenmedipham and ethofumesate.
28. (New) The liquid formulation as claimed in claim 24, further comprising one or more active ingredients selected from the group consisting of the herbicides desmedipham, phenmedipham and ethofumesate.
29. (New) An emulsifiable concentrate, comprising:
  - (a) 10 to 40% by weight of one or more water-insoluble active ingredients;

- (b) 10 to 60% by weight of the surfactant/solvent system as defined in claim 14, wherein component mixture (b) comprises b1) and b2);
- (c) 5 to 35% by weight of further organic solvents;
- (d) 10 to 25% by weight of further surfactants; and
- (e) 0 to 10% by weight of customary formulation auxiliaries.

30. (New) The emulsifiable concentrate as claimed in claim 29, comprising tri(butoxyethyl) phosphate as solvent component (b2).

31. (New) The liquid formulation as claimed in claim 29, further comprising one or more active ingredients selected from the group consisting of the herbicides desmedipham, phenmedipham and ethofumesate.

32. (New) The liquid formulation as claimed in claim 30, further comprising one or more active ingredients selected from the group consisting of the herbicides desmedipham, phenmedipham and ethofumesate.

33. (New) A process for the preparation of a formulation as defined in claim 21, comprising the step of mixing the components with one another.

34. (New) A method of controlling undesired plant growth, comprising the step of applying an effective amount of a formulation as defined in claims 21, wherein said formulation

comprises a herbicidal active ingredient, to plants, plant parts or an area where the plants grow, wherein said formulation is optionally diluted with water prior to application.

35. (New) A method of controlling undesired plant growth, comprising the step of applying an effective amount of a formulation as defined in claims 29, wherein said formulation comprises a herbicidal active ingredient, to the plants, plant parts or area where the plants grow, wherein said formulation is diluted with water prior to application.